

New Guidelines Encourage Responsible Recycling of Electronics

(EPA Press Release, October 31, 2008)

Electronics recyclers have a new guide on how to run safe and environmentally protective recycling operations. EPA, as part of a group of recycling stakeholders, developed the “**Responsible Recycling (R2) Practices for Use in Accredited Certification Programs for Electronics Recyclers**” to promote better environmental, worker safety, and public health practices for electronics recyclers.

“There should be no doubt that choosing to reuse or recycle used electronics is the right choice for our environment,” said Susan Parker Bodine, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. “These voluntary guidelines will help assure Americans that their used electronics will be recycled safely and responsibly.”

The R2 guide lists 13 principles to help electronics recyclers ensure their material is handled safely and legally in the U.S. and foreign countries. It calls on recyclers to establish a management system for environmental and worker safety; develop a policy that promotes reuse and material recovery over landfill or incineration; and use practices that reduce exposures or emissions during recycling operations. The principles also call for recyclers to use diligence to assure appropriate management of materials throughout the recycling chain, including materials that are exported to foreign countries.

Reusing and recycling used electronics helps the environment by saving energy and conserving natural resources. When improperly managed, however, used electronics can release materials that raise environmental and health concerns.

The workgroup that developed the guidelines represent federal and state governments, electronics manufacturers and recyclers, and trade associations. The workgroup will now focus on establishing a certification process, which will allow consumers easily to recognize responsible recyclers in the marketplace.

Information about the guidelines:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/r2practices.htm>

RadioShack Announces E-Waste Program

RadioShack, Fort Worth, Texas, has launched an online e-waste trade-in program that allows customers to exchange certain portable electronics for a store gift card. Acceptable electronics include GPS devices, MP3 players, wireless phones, digital camcorders, car stereos, digital cameras, laptop computers and video game consoles. Earn trade-in credits while supporting reuse and recycling.

Visit the Radio Shack web site at

<http://radioshack.cexchange.com/online/home/index.rails>

Keys to a Successful Recycling Program

How can you make your recycling program a strong community effort? Use the following checklist to see how your program rates:

- ☐ Management support of the program through adequate funding and staffing
- ☐ Convenient access to recycling collection sites and systems
- ☐ Clear signage at recycling collection sites
- ☐ Regular information dissemination on recycling options in community
- ☐ Regular recycling updates to community on recycling results
- ☐ Special recycling collection events
- ☐ Recycling at special events and outdoor recreational facilities
- ☐ Recycling in schools and other government buildings
- ☐ Regular recycling education outreach to residential community
- ☐ Promotion of recycling to the business community
- ☐ Buying “green” and recycling is the SOP for all government operations

If your program isn’t doing most of these things, there is room for improvement.

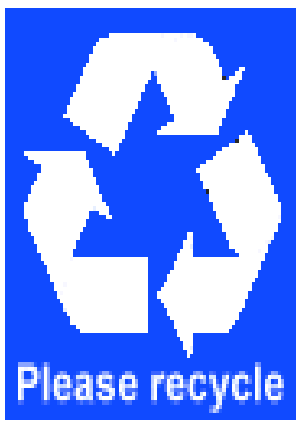
Story Update: The October *Recycling Lines* story on the **Virginia Trekkers** provided a web link which has now been changed. The Trekkers travel the state creating POD casts to highlight recycling projects and options. The latest one showed how recyclables are processed at a Materials Recovery Facility or MRF. The link is:
<http://www.virginiatrekkers.com/Recycling/Recycling.html>

Anheuser-Busch Recycling Anniversary

Anheuser-Busch has created a very informative recycling web site to 30 years of promoting the recycling of aluminum cans at home, at work, at school (with lesson plans), and at special events. The Anheuser-Busch story includes understanding how the company includes its contractors and vendors in the recycling network they have created.

The site includes a number of short videos on recycling, appropriate to the various venues listed above, and information on how important recycling is to the environment.

Visit <http://www.powerofrecycling.com/>



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

November 2008

*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.*

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoc@deq.virginia.gov.

Recycling in the U.S., 2007

EPA's new 2007 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization report shows Americans recycled and composted 85 million tons of the 254 million tons of total municipal solid waste produced last year. Each person produced 4.6 pounds of trash per day, of which 1.5 pounds were recycled or composted. Recycling has increased slightly over 2006, when people recycled and composted around 82 million tons of the 251 million tons of total municipal solid waste produced. Virginia generated 9.5 million tons of MSW while recycling 3.6 millions of material.

Americans save energy, conserve natural resources, and help reduce climate change every time they reduce, reuse, or recycle. Recycling 85 million tons of municipal solid waste in 2007 saved the energy equivalent of more than 10.7 billion gallons of gasoline and prevented the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 35 million passenger vehicles.

Used Oil Hotline – 1-800-592-5482

DEQ opened its Toll-Free Used Oil Hotline on July 1, 2008. The *Code of Virginia*, §10.1-1422.6 was amended by the 2008 General Assembly to provide additional informational access to citizens on used oil and other automotive fluids collection sites in Virginia.

DEQ also updated the recycling signage available to retailers who sell automotive fluids such as motor oil for posting. The sign is electronically downloadable from DEQ's web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/usedoil.html.

Used oil recycling in Virginia has remained strong. In 2007, Virginia jurisdictions reported recycling over 52,800 tons of used oil, along with over 4,400 tons of used oil filters and over 3,600 tons of used antifreeze. Many localities have used oil collection tanks at their waste management facilities such as landfills and transfer stations. Contact your local recycling program manager for information on how to recycle used oil and other automotive fluids where you live, or visit DEQ's Used Oil Recycling web page at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/usedoil.html>.

Did You Know?

- ✓ **Earth 911** provides recycling information based upon your zip code? Visit www.earth911.org
- ✓ Battery recycling information can be found at the **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's** website at www.rbrc.org.
- ✓ The analog-to-digital changeover for television broadcasting becomes effective on February 17, 2009. Visit <http://www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html> for information on converter boxes for your analog television sets.
- ✓ Recycling saves energy, saves natural resources, reduces waste and pollution, and creates jobs? Visit <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/top10reasonstorecycle.aspx>
- ✓ More and more schools are looking for ways to recycle. **The Virginia Recycling Association** has developed a School Recycling Toolkit to help design and implement a program in your school. Visit <http://vrarecycles.org.dnnmax.com/>.
- ✓ **Popular Mechanics Magazine** has published an article debunking 5 half-myths about recycling. <http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/earth/4290631.html>

Calendar of Events

November

15 America Recycles Day 2008

December

4 Recycling Markets Development Council meeting at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office, Glen Allen

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